

# Getting your students to talk for real!

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## What is “a communicative task”?



- Students must have a **reason** to communicate
- There should be a **linguistic aim**
- There should be a **gap of information**
- (*or*) There should be a **gap of opinion**
- Students need **prep. time** (language, ideas)
- Students should be able to **relate to** the task



Example 1



### Better questions

1. What did you do at the weekend?

2. In pairs, discuss your weekend. Who had the best / most relaxing / ... weekend?

3. Write down 3 things you did at the weekend, but one of them should be false! Then show your sentences to each other: guess which isn't true by asking questions!

4. Draw 1-2 activities from your weekend. In pairs, guess what each of you did, based on the pictures.



#### USEFUL RESOURCES

Klippel, F. (1985), *Keep Talking*, CUP

Leather, S. 'Speaking and elementary learners',

[www.teachingenglish.org.uk/article/speaking-elementary-learners](http://www.teachingenglish.org.uk/article/speaking-elementary-learners)

Tait, S. (2001), 'Ingredients for Successful Communicative Tasks',

[www.englishclub.com/tefl-articles/successful-communicative-tasks.htm](http://www.englishclub.com/tefl-articles/successful-communicative-tasks.htm)

Ur, P. (1981), *Discussions that Work*, CUP

B1 level speaking tips: <http://www.euroexam.org/en> - 'Prepare for the exam'

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## Comparatives / superlatives

Now you can ask your students to do the same:

London is \_\_\_\_\_ than Moscow.  
(*cheap / expensive*) (TRUE/FALSE?)

1. Sts work in pairs to write 3 sentences, as above.  
Monitor, and help if necessary.
2. Pass the sentences on: pair 2 completes them.
3. Pass on again: pair 3 decides if they're true or false.
4. Pass them back to pair 1 to check / correct.



## “Have you done your homework?”

**do / make** collocations



business, one's best, a phone call, the housework,  
a profit, a mistake, your homework,  
a speech, an exercise

## DO / MAKE collocations

How can you practise these – in a meaningful way?

- 1 Students (write and) complete questions.
- 2 Students then ask and answer questions in pairs.

*Have you ever ..... a speech?*

*Have you ..... any housework today?*

*Do you think adult learners should ..... homework?*

*When did you last ..... a phone call?*

*Have you ..... any exercise this week?*